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NEWS

Protestors of all ages rally in Winchester on No Kings Day

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

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More than 800 people from Winchester and nearby communities gathered to protest the Trump administration during No Kings Day on Oct. 18. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/RICHARD HOWARD

By Daisy Levine and Aayushi Datta

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Hundreds of people of all ages, many dressed in costumes and waving American flags, turned out Saturday at the Winchester Unitarian Society for the town's No Kings protest.

"This is what democracy looks like!" they chanted.

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WE LOVE AMERICA &
OUR CONSTITUTION
UR RULE OF LAW
UR DEMOCRACY
NO KINGS
EVER WONDER WHAT YOU'D HAVE DONE IN 1930'S GERMANY? YOURE DOING IT RIGHT NOW
KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF
NOPE

The No Kings rally drew protestors of all ages to downtown Winchester. WINCHESTER NEWS S
PHOTO/RICHARD HOWARD

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The Oct. 18 rally drew more than 800 residents not only from Winchester, but nearby communities. No Kings protests took place in more than 2,700 communities across the United States for the second time this year. The first occurred in June, in response to criticisms that President Donald Trump has been using authoritarian rhetoric and tactics.

Indivisible Winchester's (IndivisibleWIN) chief organizer Kim Whittaker said she wanted to emphasize that everyone loves America but protested out of concern.

"It just speaks to the level of concern and horror that people are feeling right now in what's happening to our country," said Whittaker, treasurer of Indivisible Winchester.

Ilene Lerner, 82, has been an activist since age 18. On Saturday, she made it to the demonstration despite her limited mobility — she couldn't stand on her own — but speaking with Winchester News brought her to tears.

"It just does my heart good, because I'm so upset about what's going on," Lerner said, as she placed her hand over her heart.

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Protestors showed up with signs of all sorts on Oct. 18. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTOS/RICHARD HOWARD

Lerner, a second-generation American, said she'd be "horrified" if her grandparents were treated the way Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers have handled the immigration crisis under the Trump administration.

"This is supposed to be a Christian country, and look what they're doing to people," she said. "All of us are immigrants. The only people who aren't are the Native Americans."

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Standing between his two dads and his younger brother, 11-year-old Jasper Hamnvik said he is concerned about what has been happening across the country.

"I don't want soldiers walking around on our streets, except on Halloween," he said.

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Some protestors showed up with not only signs, but in costume. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTOS/RICHARD HOWARD

His father Ole-Petter Hamnvik said it was important to show his make his voice heard.

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"We want to show them that you actually have a voice in this country," said Hamnvik, 45. "We talk a lot about how we disagree with the current policies, and we want to show him that you don't have to be passive bystanders and just accept what's happening."

Showing up at the rally meant "doing something" for Daniel Smith, a 79-year-old resident of Medford. As he stood under a tree and held his sign against his chest, Smith questioned the basic civic learning he was taught that are the basis of the U.S. Constitution.

Organizers say there were more than 800 people gathered for the No Kings rally on Oct. 18. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/RICHARD HOWARD

"Where are the checks and balances?" Smith said. "Where is the separation of powers? Where all of this stuff that they said couldn't happen because the Constitution was designed to prevent it?"

It was Tylor Stewart's first demonstration. Stewart, 59, showed up himself Saturday morning, inspired by his sister who's gay and ha

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married.

"It'd be nice if her marriage was not made invalid, on either a state or a federal level," he said. "All these things are possible now, and they shouldn't be."

Indivisible Winchester organizers said the crowd at the No Kings rally was enthusiastic. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTOS/RICHARD HOWARD

Stewart said the only way to have liberty is to exercise it.

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"This is the best way to peacefully resist the encroaching authoritarianism," Stewart said. "We can let people know that this is not okay and that the people do not approve of this."

Whittaker said democracy depends on showing up.

"We're so proud of Winchester today, really," Whittaker said. "This is really heartening to see."

Daisy Levine and Aayushi Daata are journalism students at Boston University. This story is part of a partnership between Winchester News and the Boston University Department of Journalism.

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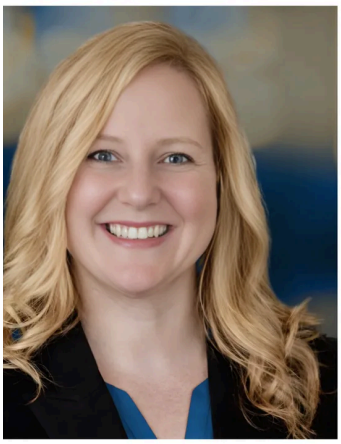

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Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

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affordability bill

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